



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
DEPUTY NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR MARINE CORPS MATTERS/
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE MARINE CORPS
701 S COURTHOUSE ROAD
ARLINGTON, VA 22204

IN REPLY REFER TO:
3040
17 Aug 18

Ms. Lynda M. Kiernan
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Kiernan:

This letter is in response to your letter to the Secretary of Defense dated May 30, 2018. Your description of the lifelong dedication to the United States Marine Corps by your son, Private First Class William Becket Kiernan, as well as his selfless leadership and generosity of spirit are beyond inspiring, making the circumstances leading to his death even more heart wrenching for me personally.

Your letter requested an investigation into the medical care provided to your son. My staff has been working with the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) to follow-up on your request, and I am able to share with you what has been done to date.

Pursuant to BUMED policy, a quality of care review was performed to evaluate the circumstances surrounding the medical treatment provided to your son in February 2018. Federal law (10 U.S.C. §1102) prohibits the Navy from releasing a copy of its review or findings. This law is designed to ensure full disclosure and candid appraisals of medical procedures and professional performance to guarantee complete evaluation and recommended improvements, where applicable, in patient safety and quality of medical care.

Although we cannot provide a copy of the file to you, I can share with you that BUMED's review was extensive and evaluated all medical care provided to your son. It also examined the role of all BUMED health care providers, facilities, and support systems involved in the care and treatment of your son. BUMED also completed a comprehensive analysis of all of the findings in order to identify steps that should be taken to improve its health care services, where appropriate. In addition, the results of the review are also being evaluated by BUMED's Risk Management Department for any wide reaching process improvements to Navy Medicine.

Unfortunately, I do not have more extensive information to give you. I can assure you that the items you raised in your letter were thoroughly addressed in BUMED's review, as well as consideration for a battalion aid station for entry level Marines aboard 29 Palms.

If you feel that I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at (703) 604-4671.

Sincerely yours,

D. A. OTTIGNON
Major General, USMC
Inspector General of the Marine Corps